

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/788,273

Applicant(s)

LI ET AL.

Examiner

Michelle Estrada

Art Unit

2823

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 5/12/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5,7-10,16,17 and 38-65.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 20 June 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 7/6/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

Cancel claims 11-15 and 29-37.

Election/Restrictions

This application is in condition for allowance except for the presence of claims 11-15 and 29-37 to inventions non-elected without traverse. Accordingly, claims 11-15 and 29-37 been cancelled.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-5, 7-10, 16, 17 and 38-65 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: with respect to claim 1, there is no disclosure in the prior art of illuminating a wafer with a beam of electromagnetic radiation having a majority of energy polarized in a direction being other than parallel to a longitudinal direction of the feature; and measuring a change in reflectance of the feature due to heat transfer therethrough caused by illumination with the beam.

With respect to claim 17, there is no disclosure in the prior art of illuminating a wafer with a beam of electromagnetic radiation having a majority of energy polarized in a direction being other than parallel to a longitudinal direction of the feature; repeatedly measuring intensity of a portion of the beam reflected by the wafer at a plurality of locations transverse to the longitudinal direction; and changing the process parameter depending on measurements obtained from the act of repeatedly measuring.

With respect to claim 48, there is no disclosure in the prior art of heating of the groove by a portion of the light polarized perpendicular to the groove, heat from said heating being transmitted into a substrate of the semiconductor wafer; and measuring intensity of light absorbed in the groove measurably reduces the reflected light.

With respect to claim 63, there is no disclosure in the prior art of illuminating a wafer with a beam of electromagnetic radiation having a majority of energy polarized in a direction being other than parallel to a longitudinal direction of the feature; and measuring intensity of a portion of the beam reflected at least by the thermally conductive layer.

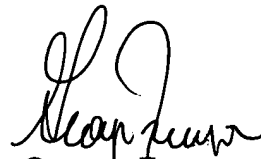
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michelle Estrada whose telephone number is 571-272-1858. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Olik Chaudhuri can be reached on 571-272-1855. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-2800.



George Fourson
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2823



MEstrada
July 30, 2004